

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) Packet forwarding equipment for connecting multicast client nodes and a multicast network including at least one multicast source server, comprising:

means for translating first request of joining to or leaving from a multicast group which is sent from one of said multicast client nodes that cannot designate a multicast source, into second request of joining to or leaving from the multicast group with designating a source of the multicast group; and

means for transferring the second request to said multicast network.

2. (original) The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 1, wherein an address of the source of the multicast group is determined on the basis of an address of said multicast client node and an address of the multicast group to which said joining or leaving request has been sent from said multicast client node.

3. (original) The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 2, further comprising:

a table comprised of a plurality of entries each indicating relations of a multicast group address, a multicast client node address, and a multicast source address corresponding to the multicast group address and the multicast client node

address,

wherein when a request of joining or leaving a multicast group is issued from a multicast client node which does not have a function of designating a multicast source address, said table is searched for an entry including the address of the multicast client node which has issued said join or leave request and the address of the multicast group to which said join or leave request has to be sent, thereby to designate a multicast source with a multicast source address indicated by the retrieved entry.

4. (original) The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 3, wherein when the multicast source address of the entry retrieved from said table is "don't care", said request is processed as a request to join or leave an any-source multicast group which does not designate a multicast source.

5. (original) The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 3, wherein said table is provided either in the packet forwarding equipment or in a different apparatus which can be accessed by the packet forwarding equipment via a communication line.

6. – 12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) Packet forwarding equipment connecting a multicast client node and a multicast network, comprising:
a management table for managing relations among a multicast group, an

address of a node as a client of the multicast group, and an address indicative of a source of a multicast packet in the multicast group;

means for referring to the management table, when a request of joining to a multicast group is received from the multicast client node, according to the received request to determine the type of the multicast client node;~~The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 12, comprising:~~

a line accommodating module for receiving a multicast join request from said multicast client node;

a multicast group management packet translating module for determining whether the multicast join request received by said line accommodating module is a request to join a source-specific multicast group or a request to join an any-source multicast group and, when the received join request is the request to join the any-source multicast group, searching said management table, and translating said received join request into a join request to a source-specific multicast group on the basis of a result of the search;

a multicast group management packet processing module for processing the request to join said source-specific multicast group; and

a multicast routing managing module for sending a notification of the request to join the multicast group, toward the source of the multicast packet in said source-specific multicast group.